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Weekly Safety Tip

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January 5, 2015

SCI Safety Tip: Prevent Forklift Accidents With These Safety Tips

Source: www.blr.com

Date: June 10, 2014



There are somewhere between 20,000 and 35,000 forklift accidents every year. A quick refresher might be all it takes to make sure your employees don't add to that number. Consider holding a toolbox talk on the subject soon.

Operating a forklift is a risky job

An employee jumps from a tipping forklift truck. A new hire is placed in the driver's seat with no training. A worker is driving a fork truck with a clearly elevated load. All three are injured as a result.

According to the Industrial Truck Association, there are more than 850,000 forklifts (powered industrial trucks) in the United States and about 85 fatal accidents each year. OSHA puts it bluntly in a message to workers, "Operating a forklift without training is dangerous and can even be fatal to you or other employees working in the area."

Most of the injuries and property damage can be linked to three causes:

- Insufficient or inadequate forklift training;
- Failure to follow safe forklift operating procedures including speed; *and*

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**Zero accident
requires FULL
ATTENTION**

James Lehrke-SCI

- Lack of enforcement of safety rules—for example, not using a forklift to elevate workers standing on the forks.

Other issues include lack of proper tools and attachments, poorly maintained forklifts, and aging equipment. There are many types of powered industrial trucks, each with its own operating hazards. For example, a sit-down, counterbalanced high-lift rider truck is more likely than a motorized hand truck to be involved in a falling load accident because the sit-down rider truck can lift a load much higher than a hand truck.

Injuries commonly occur when (1) lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks; (2) lifts fall between docks and an unsecured trailer; (3) they are struck by a lift truck; or (4) they fall while on elevated pallets and tines.

What does the OSHA standard require for forklift safety?

OSHA requires employers to develop and implement a training program based on the general principles of safe truck operation, the type of vehicle being used, the hazards of the workplace created by the use of the vehicle, and the general safety requirements of the OSHA standard.

Trained operators must know how to do the job properly and safely. Formal and practical training must be provided. And employers must certify that each operator has received the training and evaluate each operator at least once every 3 years.

Before operating the truck in the workplace, the employer must evaluate the operator's performance and determine if the operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely. Refresher training is needed whenever an operator demonstrates a deficiency in the safe operation of the truck.

SCI OSHA Compliance: OSHA Updates Injury Reporting Requirements

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: September 12, 2014

OSHA announced a new final rule yesterday that changes requirements for reporting employee fatalities and hospitalizations. Keep reading to find out what employers must now do and when the changes take effect.

The new rule, which goes into force January 1, 2015, continues to require employers to notify OSHA when an employee is killed on the job. But it will now also require reporting of *any* work-related inpatient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye. In the past, OSHA required employers to report any fatality or inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees. Reporting single hospitalizations, amputations, or eye loss was not required.

Fatalities must be reported within 8 hours and the other conditions must be reported within 24 hours after the employer learns about the event. The reporting regulations affect all employers covered by OSHA, even those who are partially exempt from maintaining injury and illness records.

In a call with reporters, OSHA chief David Michaels, PhD, noted that the reports, like other data obtained by OSHA, will be available to the public online. According to Michaels, the information will help target resources and will provide information to prevent future injuries based on hazards that have already caused harm.

Although OSHA will not send inspectors to every site where a fatality or severe injury occurs, Michaels said the agency is working on a way to “engage” with employers involved in these incidents. He anticipated tens of thousands of reports within the first year of the change. OSHA is developing a web portal for electronic reporting of these incidents, in addition to phone options.

The changes were announced on the heels of the latest fatality data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which reported a preliminary total of 4,405 work fatalities in 2013. The rate of fatalities was 3.2 per 100,000 full-time workers, compared to a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 in 2012. The newest BLS data showed an increase of seven percent in fatalities among Hispanic workers.



Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA

Health & Wellness

Pace Yourself!

One way to do this is to compare how much energy it feels like you are using to the Perceived Exertion Scale featured below. For most workouts you want to be at around Level 5–6. If you’re doing interval training, you want your recovery to be around a 4–5 and your intensity blasts to be at around 8–9. For longer, slower workouts, keep your Perceived Exertion at Level 5 or lower.

The Perceived Exertion Scale

- Level 1: I’m watching TV and eating bonbons.
- Level 2: I’m comfortable and could maintain this pace all day long.
- Level 3: I’m still comfortable, but am breathing a bit harder.
- Level 4: I’m sweating a little, but feel good and can carry on a conversation effortlessly.
- Level 5: I’m just above comfortable, am sweating more and can still talk easily.
- Level 6: I can still talk, but am slightly breathless.
- Level 7: I can still talk, but i don’t really want to. I’m sweating like a pig.
- Level 8: I can grunt in response to your questions and can only keep this pace for a short time.
- Level 9: I can barely breathe.
- Level 10: It feels impossible to continue.

Changes to industry exemptions, too

In addition to announcing the new regulations, OSHA also published a revised list of low-hazard industries that are not required to maintain [injury and illness records](#) unless specifically asked to do so. Some industries are newly exempt from the recordkeeping requirements, while other industries that previously were not required to keep injury and illness records will now be required to do so.

OSHA says the revised list is based on updated data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Previously, industry recordkeeping exemptions were based on older Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes; the new rule uses North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes instead.

The new rule maintains the recordkeeping exemption for any employer with 10 or fewer employees throughout the year regardless of industry classification. In addition, all employers, regardless of establishment size or industry exemption, must report fatalities, hospitalizations, amputations, and eye loss within the time frames required by OSHA.

The new list of exempt industries includes gasoline stations; shoe stores; clothing stores; newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers; colleges, universities, and professional schools; legal services; child daycare services; full-service restaurants; technical and trade schools, and radio and television broadcasters, among others.

Industries newly required to keep records under the new system include automobile dealers; beer, wine, and liquor stores; bakeries and tortilla manufacturers; real estate lessors; performing arts companies; museums, historical sites, and similar institutions; individual and family services; community food and housing services; and emergency and other relief services.

The full, revised list is available at <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014/records.html>



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In Loving Memory of Jessica Lehrke

